

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-01

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P R 061645Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3254

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3042

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

1. EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY'S COMING MIDEAST TRIP

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT PRESS, INCREASINGLY PREOCCUPIED WITH LEBANESE DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES, CONTINUES TO DEVOTE EXTENSIVE COMMENT TO SECRETARY'S UPCOMING MIDEAST TRIP, AND TONE IS SHARPER THAN IN PREVIOUS DAYS. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" PLACES RESPONSIBILITY FOR LACK OF PROGRESS ON MIDEAST CRISIS AND OIL ISSUE SQUARELY ON SECRETARY'S SHOULDERS. INDEPENDENT "AL-BAYRAQ" BELIEVES U.S. MAY BE MANEUVERING FOR END TO ARAB SOLIDARITY AS PRICE FOR SINAI AGREEMENT, AND LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR" CALLS ON ARAB LEADERS TO REVIEW THEIR SOLIDARITY IN DEFENSE OF ARAB ACHIEVEMENTS. IN SURPRISINGLY OPTIMISTIC COMMENT, PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" EXAMINES WHAT IT SEES AS HARD QUESTIONS ARISING IN ISRAELI-AMERICAN DISPUTE. PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" ATTACKS ANTICIPATED SINAI AGREEMENT AS DE FACTO END TO STATE OF BELLIGERENCY AND CRITICIZES SYRIA FOR LENDING ITSELF TO SUCH AN APPROACH. END SUMMARY.

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2. MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, CHIEF EDITOR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT

"AN-NAHAR", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "IT HAS BECOME APPARENT TO WHOLE WORLD THAT U.S. COULD, IF IT WISHED, TACKLE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, INCLUDING OIL CRISIS, AND SOLVE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. IF ANYONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PERPETUATING THE TWO CRISES AND FOR THEIR POSSIBLE EXPLOSION, IT IS THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR AMERICAN POLICY, I.E., DR. KISSINGER. FOR THIS REASONS, A HOST OF POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE RESULTS WILL EMERGE FROM MANNER IN WHICH U.S. SECRETARY FACES TWO ISSUES OF MIDEAST AND OIL THIS WEEK.... WE CALL UPON DR. KISSINGER TO APPRECIATE MODERATION OF ARAB LEADERS NOW ENGAGED IN DIALOGUE WITH U.S."

3. INDEPENDENT "AL-BAYRAQ" WRITES: "U.S. DIPLOMACY, WHICH IS WATCHING ARAB-ISRAELI STRUGGLE WITH ONE EYE AND RISE IN OIL PRICES AND SOLIDARITY OF OIL STATES WHITH THE OTHER, COULD BE IN PROCESS OF LOOKING FOR PRICE TO OBTAIN IN RETURN FOR SINAI AGREEMENT.... THIS PRICE CAN BE NOTHING BUT BREAKUP OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY UNITY OF ARAB STATES."

4. ELIAS BADAWI, COLUMNIST OF LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR", WRITES: "ALL ARAB QUARTERS ARE STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF ARAB SOLIDARITY AT THIS SPECIFIC STAGE OF ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. ALL ARAB LEADERS REALIZE THAT MAINTENANCE OF ARAB FRONT UNITED NOW, WHILE POLITICAL BATTLE IS AT ITS HIGHEST, IS NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FRONT THAT GRANTED ARABS FIRST SIGNIFICANT VICTORIES IN THEIR WAR AGAINST OCCUPYING ENEMY.... PRESENT ARAB SITUATION CANNOT BE PERMITTED TO GO ON ANY LONGER, NOT FOR SAKE OF U.S. MEDIATION TALKS, BUT FOR SAKE OF ARABS' FUTURE AS UNITED FORCE THAT HAS BEGUN TO BRING ABOUT VITAL CHANGES IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM OF WORLD."

5. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" WRITES: "WESTERN PRESS REPORTS PROVE THAT DISPUTE BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAEL REVOLVES AROUND FOLLOWING ISRAELI QUESTIONS: WILL AMERICA PROTECT ISRAEL WITH ITS ARMS, MEN, AND MONEY FOREVER? CAN ISRAEL EXIST FOREVER AS PROTECTED STATE WITHIN TINY BESIEGED AND BOYCOTTED AREA...?, AS WELL AS AROUND FOLLOWING AMERICAN QUESTIONS: WILL ISRAEL ACCEPT AMERICAN PROTECTION UNTIL UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCH TIME AS IT CAN DO WITHOUT ITS MILITARY, HUMAN, AND FINANCIAL AID...? WILL ISRAEL ACCEPT AMERICAN PROTECTION OF ITS EXISTENCE WITHIN ITS PRE-1967 BORDERS ON CONDITION THAT IT CARRY OUT NO EXPANSIONIST OR AGGRESSIVE ACT AGAINST ITS NEIGHBORS...? AT ANY RATE, ISRAEL HAS BEGUN TO FEEL THAT ITS EXISTENCE IS THREATENED. THIS IS BEGINNING OF THE END SIGNALLED BY GROWTH OF EMIGRATION."

6. SULAYMAN AL-FIRIZLI, CHIEF EDITOR OF PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT", WRITES IN FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL: "IT IS NOT TRUE THAT ISRAEL IS INSISTING ON OFFICIAL DECLARATION FROM CAIRO ENDING STATE OF BELLIGERENCY; THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT AND EMBARRASSING. BUT ISRAEL AND U.S. BOTH REALIZE THAT SEPARATE SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL IS IN ITSELF A DE FACTO END TO STATE OF BELLIGERENCY WITHOUT ANY DECLARATION. THIS IS WHAT WILL MAKE SEPARATE SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE DURING KISSINGER'S VISIT TO AREA.... SYRIAN REGIME IS MAKING NO MOVE TO INDICATE THAT IT WISHES TO PREVENT SEPARATE INTERIM SETTLEMENT. QUITE THE CONTRARY-- IT IS ACTING AS IF IT HAS BEEN AWAITING IT IMPATIENTLY TO USE IT AS PRETEXT FOR JOINING SETTLEMENT."

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